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OFFICE OF WEAPONS INTELLIGENCE

WEAPONS INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

1 NOVEMBER 1976

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CENTERLINE-MOUNTED AS-4 CONFIRMED ON BACKFIRE B

[REDACTED] a 6 October 1976 photograph of a Backfire B carrying a centerline-mounted AS-4. The aircraft, photographed over the Baltic Sea, was from the SNAF base at Bykhov. The missile was reported as very similar to the AS-4 Kitchen, being 11.85 m (39 ft) long and delta winged.

A recent OWI study concluded that the Backfire B could carry a variety of payloads. Besides bombs, it can carry two wing-mounted AS-4 air-to-surface missiles. It also concluded that the Backfire B probably could carry a single semi-submerged centerline-mounted AS-4, based on the association of the AS-4 with Backfire A during testing. With the landing gear pods carried by Backfire A, a centerline mounting for the AS-4 as the only configuration possible.

The Backfire B is judged capable of performing a supersonic dash with one centerline-mounted AS-4, but to shorter range/radius values than with an internal

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bomb load. We think it likely that the Backfire B can carry three AS-4 missiles, i.e., two wing-mounted and one centerline mounted, on subsonic missions at still further reduced ranges.

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